



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Five, Issue 1a



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

In looking back over the past year, the City of Westminster has celebrated many accomplishments that will guide the quality of life in future years. We have continued to focus on our infrastructure—our water and sewer system, our roads and City-owned facilities.

The most important activities in the infrastructure area relate to the provision of an adequate water supply capacity. Two capital projects began this year: the building of the Gesell Well and the Union Mills well field. Both of these projects are being developed in cooperation with the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. Construction on the Gesell Well is currently in progress and the Union Mills location was evaluated and potential well sites are being drilled.

The Mayor and Common Council provided funding for the renovation of City Hall over a three year period. The roof and porch were both completed this year and the windows will be rehabilitated over the coming year. The Historic District Commission has been instrumental in ensuring the building renovation meets historic standards and sponsored a City Hall reception to celebrate this project in early December. Funding has also been provided to begin rehabilitation of the Longwell Armory.

The multi-year roadway paving project has completed an additional 1.57 miles of paved roadway in the Meadow Branch Road and Fenby Farm areas. The City has received a grant of \$318,000 to be used for the installation and renovation of handicapped accessible ramps in the Sustainable Community area, which includes the Main Street business district.

The first four houses in the Union Crossing affordable housing project were sold and the City is partnering with Habitat for Humanity for the remaining five houses.

Another important quality of life accomplishment is maintaining a vibrant downtown business area. The City sponsored a very successful Restaurant Week in August and welcomed a number of new shops this year. The City applied for and received a Community Legacy Grant in the amount of \$50,000 which will support façade improvement projects for the Carroll Arts Center, Race Pace bicycle shop and O'Lordan's Irish Pub.

Our dedicated employees also received recognition for outstanding service. Jeff Glass, Director of Public Works, was recognized as the Maryland Municipal League Employee of the Year for his 30 years of distinguished service to the City of Westminster. Darlene Childs, Human Resources Manager, was awarded the Exemplary Claims Processing Award from the Local Government Insurance Trust for excellence in facilitating claims investigations.

We can be proud of our accomplishments this year and look forward to 2013. I wish prosperity for the City of Westminster and for everyone who resides therein.

Sincerely,

Mayor Utz

Online Access for Water/Sewer Accounts

Get 24/7 unlimited access to your water/sewer account information by registering online at www.westminstermd.gov. View your bill before it arrives in the mail, see payments made and usage history any time of day or night, weekends and holidays. You can also pay your bill via Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card through your online account.

Recreation Events: January, February & March

January-February-March

SCHOOL'S OUT FUN DAY!

January 21 and January 28 and February 18

School's out for the day and we have some fun and exciting things planned to do with the kids!

\$20 per child (9am-4pm)

AM & PM Care available (7am-6pm) \$5 per session

Call 410-848-9161 to register today! Space is limited. Please wear sneakers and pack a lunch and water bottle!

ZumbAtomic-Zumba for Kids

Come try a **FREE** class with us!

JANUARY 5

Ages 4-7 9-9:45 am

Ages 8-12 10-11am

Westminster Family Fitness Center

11 Longwell Avenue, 410-751-5501



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!

Start making plans, because we have the child care covered! Kids will have a great time playing games, doing crafts, watching movies, eating pizza and making new friends!

5-8:30pm \$15/first child, \$5 /additional-same family.

February 16 and March 9 5-8:30pm

Longwell Municipal Center, 11 Longwell Avenue

American Red Cross Blood Drive

With the recent tragedy of Hurricane Sandy, the Red Cross is short on blood donations.

February 11 1-7 p.m.

11 Longwell Avenue.

Please call 410-751-5501 for an appointment

Easter Egg Hunt

March 30

10:30am (ages 1-4) 11:30am (ages 5-8)

Westminster City Park

Bunny petting zoo, face painting, concessions, prizes and, of course, THE EASTER BUNNY!

FREE! Sponsored by the Westminster Kiwanis Morning Club!

Twilight Egg Hunt

March 28

6:30-7:30pm

Ages 9-12

Come search for thousands of eggs at KING PARK, Chase Street with your Westminster City Recreation Flashlight!!

FREE!

Westminster's Got Talent

February 23 7pm

Longwell Municipal Center Gymnasium

11 Longwell Avenue

Do you have a unique talent?

Share it with us!

Applications & \$15 entry fee must be submitted by February 1 and are available at www.westminstermd.gov



Westminster Family Fitness Center

NO ENROLLMENT FEE*

***with this coupon**

Bring this coupon with you when you enroll as a new member of the Westminster Family Fitness Center and pay **NO ENROLLMENT FEE!**

Save up to \$150!

Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount.

Coupon expires March 31, 2013



Westminster Family Fitness Center

1 FREE ADMITANCE*

***With this coupon**

Come try us and see why we're one of the most popular fitness centers in Westminster!

Coupon expires March 31, 2013

From the Code Enforcement Office

Remember to clear snow and ice from sidewalks



As a Reminder to Westminster Citizens within City limits:

Please remember to have your sidewalks cleared within 24 hrs of a snow or ice event. Failure to do so not only could result in liability on the property owner's behalf, but also a \$200 fine issued by Code Inspector.

Stay safe during this winter season!

Be a Good Neighbor This Winter

After snow and ice stop falling, it's time to clear the white stuff away. Some citizens may have difficulty achieving this task due to age, disability, or other reasons. If you see that a neighbor might need help this winter clearing snow or ice from their sidewalk, driveway, car, or porch, be a good neighbor and lend a hand.

Also, if you see a fire hydrant or stormdrain that is covered in snow, please take time to help emergency responders and Public Works employees by clearing these areas for quick and easy access should an emergency arise and to help avoid melting snow from flooding streets.

Avoid driving and traveling during wintry conditions. If you find that you must leave your home, leave with extra time and drive slowly and carefully. Try not to become upset at another driver going under the speed limit; remember—they are being safe!

Always exercise extreme caution during hazardous conditions and stay safe this winter season.

Christmas Tree Collection



By expanding our tree limb collection service to include Christmas trees during the month of January, the City has enough material to create mulch for City properties, with some to spare.

Our Public Works Department estimates that they can produce 200 tons of mulch from the Christmas trees and other tree limbs "donated" each year.

Nationally, "Treecycling" programs are sprouting up in communities everywhere. Trees that were once destined for the landfill (at a cost of \$60/ton) are now taken to a central location and fed through machinery to make mulch. In Westminster, the Public Works department uses the mulch to maintain landscaping in our public spaces.

For something so simple, mulch adds tremendous value to your landscape. It insulates the soil and plant roots from temperature extremes, protects soils from ... (see next column...)

(...continued)

compaction, allows water to infiltrate the ground slowly, and decomposes to add vital nutrients and porosity to the soil. Besides that, it looks a lot better than bare dirt!

Christmas trees will be collected curbside for recycling on the following schedule:

Beginning February 1st, Christmas trees will be collected every other Monday following the tree limb/brush bulk trash pickup schedule (more details on previous page).

Christmas trees may also be dropped off at the Westminster Skate Park behind City Hall on Longwell Avenue until March 1st.

Should you need more information, or if you have any questions, please call the Information Desk at 410-848-9000.

Save Energy During the Winter Months

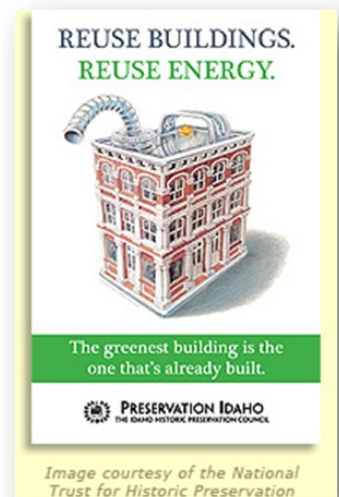
As winter sets in and cold winds howl around our historic streets and neighborhoods, thoughts turn to the upcoming holidays, anticipation of our first snowstorm, and the dreaded winter heating bills. If you live or work in one of the more than 1400 Historic buildings in our town, you may be reading his article next to an old wooden window, or a cast-iron radiator, sitting between un-insulated plaster walls, or behind an old, paneled hardwood front door. You're probably thinking about all the warm air escaping through all the cracks and crannies in those old features, and how you'll need to replace them to keep your house warm this winter.

If you're in this situation, the Westminster Historic District Commission urges you to peruse the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) new web resource for winterizing historic structures:

<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/weatherization/>

The agency's goal is to promote the preservation of historic buildings and their key features by presenting research and best practices related to renovating old buildings to handle the extreme of winter weather. You may be surprised to find that your old home or office building has built-in features that were intended to increase its performance. Many of the recommended upgrades found on this site are eligible for rebates from your energy supplier, and tax credits from the federal government.

So preserve your old home, reduce your heating and cooling costs, and reduce your carbon footprint by learning how to work with your old building to increase its performance.

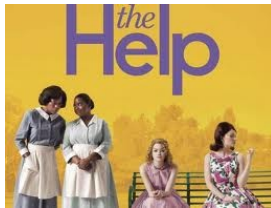


Carroll Arts Center Events

Friday, January 18, 7:30pm: Film Lovers in Carroll County (FLICC) have chosen to screen the Academy Award winning film "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"; 2000, PG-13, 120 min. The action adventure film tells the story of two warriors in pursuit of a stolen sword. The Chinese film was acclaimed for its amazing special effect and artistic use of the martial arts to tell a fascinating story. It was directed by the acclaimed Ang Lee and nominated for an astounding 10 Academy Awards. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students and Seniors. It will be screened with English subtitles.

Saturday, January 19, 11 am: The Carroll Arts Council is pleased to welcome back Arts Power National Touring Theatre Company for a performance of "Laura Ingalls Wilder." The family-friendly musical is based on the series of books, including the iconic "Little House on the Prairie," that has been cherished by generation of young girls. The uplifting show follows Laura and her family as they travel across America in search of a place they can call home. Arts Power is a talented professional theatre company that successfully brings to life Wilder's book while introducing the audience to a look at American history and growing up in the 1800's. It is an ideal show for children ages 6– 11. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC Members, Students Under 18 and Seniors.

Monday, January 21, 2 pm: "The Help"; 2011, PG-13, 146 min. This film is set in Mississippi during the 1960's. Skeeter is a southern society girl who returns from college determined to become a writer, but turns her friends' lives— and a small town— upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their entire lives taking care of prominent southern families. The project puts Skeeter's life-long friendships at risk, while jeopardizing the welfare of many dedicated domestic workers. However, the women who come forward have a lot to say and their courage sparks awareness and change. Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors and can be purchased in advance at the box office, or online with a major credit card at www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org. The screening is sponsored by Carroll Community College, so CCC students with a valid I.D. will be admitted free of charge.



Saturday, February 9, 7:30 pm:

The Carroll County Arts Council is proud to announce that the acclaimed blues quartet "Hard Swimmin' Fish" will return to the stage of the Carroll Arts Center following a sell-out performance last year. The concert is set for with a



snowdate of February 10. Tickets are \$18 for Adults and \$16 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors.

Sunday, February 17, 3pm: Musical group "Carroll County Ramblers" will take the stage. Recent winners of the prestigious Alta Award for excellence in the traditional arts, they have won the reputation of being one of the finer bluegrass groups in the industry. The group includes Dale Eyler on fiddle and vocals, Steve Waldon Jr on banjo, Bonnie Eyler on fiddle, bass and vocals and Dave Dulaney on guitar and vocals. Recently they were honored by the Maryland State Arts Council with an Alta Award for their legacy in the traditional arts. Tickets are \$12 for Adults and \$10 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors. Snow date for the concert is Sunday, February 24 at 3 pm.



Tuesday, February 26, 7 pm: the Carroll Arts Center will host a free screening of the PBS documentary film "Arts & the Mind," directed by local filmmaker, Leo Eaton. This thought-provoking documentary explores how the arts affect not just our spirits, but our body and brains as well. Each reveal the latest research on the impact of the arts on human development; why the arts improve children's learning and achievement in school; and evidence to confirm how the arts keep middle-aged and older brains agile and alert. Tickets are not required and seating is on a first-come, first served basis.

Go to www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org for more detailed information about any of these events!

10th Annual Foreign Film Festival

Film Lovers in Carroll County, FLICC have chosen the selections for the 10th Annual Foreign Film Festival to be held at the Carroll Arts Center on Fridays in February. All films start at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors; they are available at the box office. McDaniel College is sponsoring the series once again, so McDaniel students and faculty are admitted free. All films are shown with English subtitles. As has become FLICC's tradition, the series begins with the film that won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in the previous year. The schedule is as follows:

February 1, 2013

A Separation (Iran)

2011; PG-13; 123 mins

A married couple is faced with a difficult decision – to improve the life of their child by leaving Iran or by staying to look after a deteriorating parent who has Alzheimer's disease.

February 8

The Women on the 6th Floor (France)

2010; Not Rated; 104 mins.

In 1960's Paris, a conservative couple's lives are turned upside down by two Spanish maids. A delightful love story!

February 15

Incendies (Belgium)

2010; R; 130 mins

Twins journey to the Middle East to discover their family history, and fulfill their mother's last wishes. A compelling mystery of family secrets.

February 22

The Intouchables (France)

2012; R; 112 mins.

The true story of two men who should never have met – a quadriplegic aristocrat who was injured in a paragliding accident and a young man from the projects. Sometimes you have to reach out into someone else's world to find out what is missing in your own.



\$2 Off Any Foreign Film Fest Ticket

Limit 2 discounted tickets. Valid for in-person sales only, not available for online purchases.

2013 Bulk Trash Schedule

Bulk Trash Schedule for 2013

Reminder

This standard bulk trash collection schedule will be followed WITHOUT THE NEED TO CALL FOR A PICKUP. All bulk waste will be collected from residences throughout the City on this every-other-week schedule. Residents are required to place bulk pickup items out by 7a.m. on the pickup day to ensure collection.

January S M T WTh F S 1 Y 3 4 5 6 T M Y E W 12 13 14 15 Y 17 18 19 20 N M Y E W 26 27 28 29 Y 31	February S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 T M Y E W 9 10 11 12 Y 14 15 16 17 N M Y E W 23 24 25 26 Y 28	March S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 T M Y E W 9 10 11 12 Y 14 15 16 17 T M Y E W 23 24 25 26 Y 28 29 30 31
April S M T WTh F S T M Y E W 6 7 8 9 Y 11 12 13 14 T M Y E W 20 21 22 23 Y 25 26 27 28 T M	May S M T WTh F S Y E W 4 5 6 7 Y 9 10 11 12 T M Y E W 18 19 20 21 Y 23 24 25 27 N M Y E W	June S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 4 Y 6 7 8 9 T M Y E W 15 16 17 18 Y 20 21 22 23 T M Y E W 29 30
July S M T WTh F S 1 2 Y 4 5 6 7 T M Y E W 13 14 15 16 Y 18 19 20 21 T M Y E W 27 28 29 30 Y	August S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 4 T M Y E W 10 11 12 13 Y 15 16 17 18 T M Y E W 24 25 26 27 Y 29 30 31	September S M T WTh F S 1 N M Y E W 7 8 9 10 Y 12 13 14 15 T M Y E W 21 22 23 24 Y 26 27 28 29 30
October S M T WTh F S M Y E W 5 6 7 8 Y 10 11 12 13 T M Y E W 19 20 21 22 Y 24 25 26 27 T M Y E	November S M T WTh F S W 2 3 4 5 Y 7 8 9 10 T M Y E W 16 17 18 19 Y 21 22 23 24 T M Y E W 30	December S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 T M Y E W 14 15 16 17 Y 19 20 21 22 T M N E W 28 29 30 31

Pickup Schedule Key

- T** Tree limbs/Brush
- M** Metal, Tires, Batteries, Large Appliances
- Y** Yard waste
- E** Bulk Trash East of MD Rt31 *including Village of Meadow Creek, excluding Carroll Meadows
- W** Bulk Trash West of MD Rt31 *including Carroll Meadows, excluding Village of Meadow Creek
- N** NO PICKUP, City offices closed for Holiday

*NOTE: If the scheduled pickup day falls on a City holiday, bulk trash items will be collected on the next scheduled date.